

The Honorable Thomas S. Zilly

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

LINDA SPENCER, individually,

Plaintiff,

v.

SWEDISH HEALTH SERVICES, a Washington
Nonprofit Corporation; PROVIDENCE HEALTH
& SERVICES, a Washington Nonprofit
Corporation; PROVIDENCE HEALTH &
SERVICES-WASHINGTON, a Washington
Nonprofit Corporation; PROVIDENCE HEALTH
& SERVICES-WESTERN WASHINGTON, a
Washington Nonprofit Corporation; KRISTIA
HIGGINS, individually; and JAN DOE HIGGINS
and the marital community composed thereof,

Defendants.

C21-548 TSZ

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential

1 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file
2 confidential information under seal.

3 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

4 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
5 produced or otherwise exchanged: (a) Sensitive personal identifying information, including, but
6 not limited to, the personal identifiers listed in LCR 5.2(a), individuals’ sensitive employment
7 records, and documents which are protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability
8 Act; (b) Defendant’s non-public financial, accounting, personnel, commercial, proprietary data or
9 applications, or other proprietary or trade secret information; (c) Non-public financial, accounting,
10 commercial, proprietary data or applications, or other private or confidential information of any
11 current or former customer or business partner of Defendant; (d) Business or marketing plans of
12 Defendant; (e) Information over which the designating party is obligated to maintain
13 confidentiality by contract or otherwise; and (f) Information expressly designated as, and
14 reasonably believed by the designating party to be, confidential in nature.

15 3. SCOPE

16 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
17 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
18 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
19 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

20 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
21 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

22 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

23 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
24 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
25 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
26 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material

1 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
2 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

3 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
4 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
5 confidential material only to:

6 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
7 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

8 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
9 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
10 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
11 designated;

12 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
13 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

14 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

15 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
16 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
17 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
18 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

19 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
20 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
21 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
22 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
23 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
24 under this agreement;

25 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
26 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information; and

(h) mediators engaged by the parties.

4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

1 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
 2 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
 3 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

4 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
 5 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
 6 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
 7 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

8 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
 9 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
 10 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains
 11 confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection,
 12 the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate
 13 markings in the margins).

14 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
 15 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
 16 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
 17 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the
 18 transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
 19 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information
 20 at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

21 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
 22 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
 23 "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
 24 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

25 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
 26 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's

1 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
 2 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
 3 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

4 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

5 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
 6 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
 7 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
 8 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
 9 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
 10 original designation is disclosed.

11 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
 12 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
 13 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
 14 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
 15 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
 16 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
 17 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

18 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 19 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
 20 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 21 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 22 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 23 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
 24 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

25 //

26 //

1 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
 2 LITIGATION

3 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
 4 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party
 5 must:

6 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 7 subpoena or court order;

8 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 9 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
 10 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

11 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 12 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

13 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

14 Any person in possession of another party's Confidential information shall maintain a
 15 written information security program that includes reasonable administrative, technical, and
 16 physical safeguards designed to protect the security and confidentiality of such Confidential
 17 information, protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security of such
 18 Confidential information, and protect against unauthorized access to or use of such Confidential
 19 information. To the extent a person or party does not have an information security program they
 20 may comply with this provision by having the Confidential information managed by and/or stored
 21 with eDiscovery vendors or claims administrators that maintain such an information security
 22 program.

23 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
 24 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
 25 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
 26 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the

1 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
 2 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
 3 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4 If the receiving party discovers a breach of security, including any actual or suspected
 5 unauthorized access, relating to another party’s Confidential information, the receiving party
 6 shall: (a) promptly provide written notice to the designating party of such breach; (b) investigate
 7 and take reasonable efforts to remediate the effects of the breach, and provide the designating party
 8 with assurances reasonably satisfactory to the designating party that such breach shall not recur;
 9 and (c) provide sufficient information about the breach that the designating Party can reasonably
 10 ascertain the size and scope of the breach. If required by any judicial or governmental request,
 11 requirement, or order to disclose such information, the receiving party shall take all reasonable
 12 steps to give the designating party sufficient prior notice in order to contest such request,
 13 requirement, or order through legal means. The receiving party agrees to cooperate with the
 14 designating party or law enforcement in investigating any such security incident. In any event, the
 15 receiving party shall promptly take all necessary and appropriate corrective action to terminate the
 16 unauthorized access.

17 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
 18 MATERIAL

19 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
 20 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
 21 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
 22 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
 23 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
 24 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein. The parties agree to
 25 protection of privileged and otherwise protected documents against claims of waiver (including as
 26 against third parties and in other federal and state proceedings) as follows:

1
2 (a) The disclosure or production of documents by a producing party subject to
3 a legally recognized claim of privilege, including without limitation the attorney-client privilege
4 and the work-product doctrine, to a receiving party, shall in no way constitute the voluntary
5 disclosure of such document.

6 (b) The inadvertent disclosure or production of any document in this action
7 shall not result in the waiver of any privilege, evidentiary protection, or other protection associated
8 with such document as to the receiving party or any third parties, and shall not result in any waiver,
9 including subject matter waiver, of any kind.

10 (c) If, during the course of this litigation, a party determines that any document
11 produced by another party is or may reasonably be subject to a legally recognizable privilege or
12 evidentiary protection ("Protected Document"):

13 (i) the receiving party shall: (A) refrain from reading the Protected
14 Document any more closely than is necessary to ascertain that it is privileged or otherwise
15 protected from disclosure; (B) immediately notify the producing party in writing that it has
16 discovered documents believed to be privileged or protected; (C) specifically identify the Protected
17 Documents by Bates number range or hash value; and, (D) within ten days of discovery by the
18 receiving party, return, sequester, or destroy all copies of such Protected Documents, along with
19 any notes, abstracts, or compilations of the content thereof. To the extent that a Protected
20 Document has been loaded into a litigation review database under the control of the receiving
21 party, the receiving party shall have all electronic copies of the Protected Document extracted from
22 the database. Where such Protected Documents cannot be destroyed or separated, they shall not
23 be reviewed, disclosed, or otherwise used by the receiving party. Notwithstanding, the receiving
24 party is under no obligation to search or review the producing party's documents to identify
25 potentially privileged or work product Protected Documents.
26

(ii) If the producing party intends to assert a claim of privilege or other protection over documents identified by the receiving party as Protected Documents, the producing party will, within ten days of receiving the receiving party's written notification described above, inform the receiving party of such intention in writing and shall provide the receiving party with a log for such Protected Documents that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, setting forth the basis for the claim of privilege or other protection. In the event that any portion of a Protected Document does not contain privileged or protected information, the producing party shall also provide to the receiving party a redacted copy of the document that omits the information that the producing party believes is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection.

(d) If, during the course of this litigation, a party determines it has produced a Protected Document:

(i) the producing party may notify the receiving party of such inadvertent production in writing, and demand the return of such documents. Such notice shall be in writing; however, it may be delivered orally on the record at a deposition, promptly followed up in writing. The producing party's written notice will identify the Protected Document inadvertently produced by Bates number range or hash value, the privilege or protection claimed, and the basis for the assertion of the privilege and shall provide the receiving party with a log for such Protected Documents that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, setting forth the basis for the claim of privilege or other protection. In the event that any portion of the Protected Document does not contain privileged or protected information, the producing party shall also provide to the receiving party a redacted copy of the document that omits the information that the producing party believes is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection.

(ii) The receiving party must, within ten days of receiving the producing party's written notification described above, return, sequester, or destroy the Protected Document

1 and any copies, along with any notes, abstracts, or compilations of the content thereof. To the
2 extent that a Protected Document has been loaded into a litigation review database under the
3 control of the receiving party, the receiving party shall have all electronic copies of the Protected
4 Document extracted from the database.

5 (e) To the extent that the information contained in a Protected Document has
6 already been used in or described in other documents generated or maintained by the receiving
7 party prior to the date of receipt of written notice by the producing party as set forth in paragraphs
8 (c)(ii) and d(i), then the receiving party shall sequester such documents until the claim has been
9 resolved. If the receiving party disclosed the Protected Document before being notified of its
10 inadvertent production, it must take reasonable steps to retrieve it.

11 (f) The receiving party's return, sequestering, or destruction of Protected
12 Documents as provided herein will not act as a waiver of the requesting party's right to move for
13 the production of the returned, sequestered, or destroyed documents on the grounds that the
14 documents are not, in fact, subject to a viable claim of privilege or protection. However, the
15 receiving party is prohibited and estopped from arguing that:

16 (i) the disclosure or production of the Protected Documents acts as a
17 waiver of an applicable privilege or evidentiary protection;

18 (ii) the disclosure of the Protected Documents was not inadvertent;

19 (iii) the producing party did not take reasonable steps to prevent the
20 disclosure of the Protected Documents; or

21 (iv) the producing party failed to take reasonable or timely steps to
22 rectify the error.

23 (g) Either party may submit Protected Documents to the Court under seal for a
24 determination of the claim of privilege or other protection. The producing party shall preserve the
25 Protected Documents until such claim is resolved. The receiving party may not use the Protected
26 Documents for any purpose absent this Court's order.

1 (h) Upon a determination by the Court that the Protected Documents are
 2 protected by the applicable privilege or evidentiary protection, and if the Protected Documents
 3 have been sequestered rather than returned or destroyed by the receiving party, and subject to the
 4 exceptions outlined in Paragraph 10 below, the Protected Documents shall be returned or destroyed
 5 within 10 days of the Court's order. The Court may also order the identification by the receiving
 6 party of Protected Documents by search terms or other means.

7 (i) Nothing contained herein is intended to, or shall serve to, limit a party's
 8 right to conduct a review of documents, data (including electronically stored information), and
 9 other information, including without limitation, metadata, for relevance, responsiveness, and/or
 10 the segregation of privileged and/or protected information before such information is produced to
 11 another party.

12 (j) By operation of the parties' agreement, the parties are specifically afforded
 13 the protections of Fed. R. Evid. 502(e).

14 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

15 (a) Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each
 16 receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies,
 17 extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of
 18 destruction.

19 (b) If Confidential material or Protected Documents have been loaded into any
 20 litigation review database, the attorney for the party using such database shall have the
 21 responsibility of ensuring that all such Confidential material or Protected Documents, including
 22 all associated images and native files, are extracted from such databases (including any associated
 23 staging databases) and destroyed. "Destroyed" shall mean deletion of documents from all
 24 databases, applications, and/or file systems in a manner such that they are not readily accessible
 25 without the use of specialized tools or techniques typically used by a forensic expert.
 26

(c) Counsel of record for the parties may retain copies of any part of the Confidential material or Protected Documents produced by others that has become part of counsel's official file of this litigation as well as abstracts or summaries of materials that reference Confidential material or Protected Documents that contain counsel's mental impressions or opinions. Such copies shall remain subject to the terms of this Protective Order.

(d) The parties, counsel of record for the parties, and experts or consultants for a party shall not be required to return or to destroy any Confidential material or Protected Documents to the extent such information is (i) stored on media that is generally considered not reasonably accessible, such as disaster recovery backup tapes, or (ii) only retrievable through the use of specialized tools or techniques typically used by a forensic expert; provided that to the extent any Confidential material or Protected Documents are not returned or destroyed due to the foregoing reasons, such Confidential material or Protected Documents shall remain subject to the confidentiality obligations of this Protective Order.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

11. COMPUTATION OF TIME

The computation of any period of time prescribed or allowed by this Order shall be governed by the provisions for computing time set forth in FRCP 6.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: March 3, 2022

s/ Vanessa M. Vanderbrug
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: March 3, 2022

s/ Ryan P. Hammond
Attorneys for Defendant

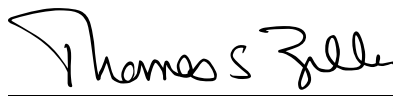
//

//

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED: March 4, 2022



Thomas S. Zilly
United States District Judge

EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
 issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the
 case of *Linda Spencer v. Swedish Health Services, et. al*, Case No. 2:21-cv-00548-TSZ.

I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order
 and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
 except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____